

# 4th BCT cuts ribbon, opens doors for OIF Dining Facility

Story and Photos by Spc. Jason Dangel  
4th BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

Following a yearlong deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Soldiers of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, were on hand to celebrate the official opening of the OIF Memorial Dining Facility during a ribbon-cutting ceremony April 25.

The christening was conducted by Lt. Col. Victor Harmon, commander, 704th Support Battalion, 4th BCT, and Brigade Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. John Moody, who served as the honorary guests, as they formally introduced the Soldiers of the Cobra Brigade, and the food service staff, to a new era of food service.

“Today is an important day because we are opening the doors to this fine dining facility for the Soldiers of this brigade,” Harmon said. “More importantly, I would like to recognize all the hard work our food service specialists do for everyone.

“Food service specialists are combat multipliers, and I would like to personally thank each of you for what you do for our Soldiers,” Harmon said, to the Soldiers of the 704th Spt. Bn.

The Soldiers serve between 300 and 600 meals daily at the OIF Memorial DFAC.

Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the Blacksmiths also unveiled a new memorial for its recent Iraq deployment, which honors the brigade’s fallen heroes.

“This is the biggest dinning facility on post right now, and it’s also the memorial DFAC. This building is special for all the Soldiers who eat here,” said Sgt. 1st Class Michelle Raiford, OIF DFAC manager, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 704th Spt. Bn.

Prior to the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the cooks completed sanitation and reintegration training at the Wagon Wheel Dining Facility in February, which helped to further prepare them for their mission to feed the brigade.

“We set the standard for food service on this post, and all the Soldiers who work here don’t take that lightly,” she said. “Nowhere else on post can you get this quality and quantity of food for the price.”

The dining facility’s hours of operation are: Breakfast from 7 to 9 a.m.; lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and dinner from 5 to 6:30 p.m.



**Harmon, Moody cut ribbon.**

Lt. Col. Victor Harmon, the commander of the 4th Infantry Division's 704th Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, along with the brigade's Command Sgt. Maj. John Moody, cut the ribbon to the Operation Iraqi Freedom Memorial Dining Facility to officially mark the start of the Cobra Brigade's operational control of food services at the facility April 25.  
(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jason Dangel, 4th BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.)



**Awaiting opening of 4th BCT OIF DFAC.**

Soldiers gather around the entrance of the Operation Iraqi Freedom Memorial Dining Facility April 25 for a ribbon-cutting ceremony, which marks the official start of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division's operational control of food services for its nearly 3,500 Soldiers.

(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jason Dangel, 4th BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.)



**Harmon addresses hungry Soldiers.**

Lt. Col. Victor Harmon, the commander of the 4th Infantry Division's 704th Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, addresses Soldiers of the Cobra Brigade before opening the Operation Iraqi Freedom Memorial Dining Facility for lunch. Following a yearlong deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the 4th BCT officially assumed operational control of the OIF Memorial Dining Facility April 25.

(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jason Dangel, 4th BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.)